

## Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 IO-13 ISO-00 AGRE-00 CEA-01  
CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-03 H-01 INR-07 INT-05  
L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 AID-05 CIEP-01 SS-15  
STR-04 ITC-01 TRSE-00 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 FEA-00  
OMB-01 /106 W

-----061611Z 093143 /42

R 061533Z JAN 77

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8512  
INFO ALL EC CAPITALS 0289  
USMISSION EC BRUSSELS  
USMISSION GENEVA  
USDEL MTN GENEVA  
AMEMBASSY TOKYO

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E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, GATT  
SUBJECT: FOREIGN TRADE MINISTER ROSSI ON FRENCH  
POSITION IN MTN

REF: PARIS 35760

1. FRENCH MINISTER OF FOREIGN TRADE  
ANDRE ROSSI, WHO HAS BEEN CHARGED WITH PRIMARY  
RESPONSIBILITY IN GOF FOR MTN, GAVE EXCLUSIVE  
INTERVIEW IN DECEMBER ISSUE OF FRENCH ECONOMIC  
MONTHLY "L'USINE NOUVELLE" IN WHICH HE ARTICULATED  
FRENCH POSITION ON MTN. WHILE THERE IS LITTLE  
NEW IN HIS STATEMENT, IT IS WORTH NOTING THIS LATEST  
OFFICIAL EXPRESSION OF THE FRENCH POSITION ON THESE  
NEGOTIATIONS. MTN PORTION OF INTERVIEW IS TRANSLATED  
BELOW.

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2. BEGIN QUOTE. THE RECENT DISCUSSION IN THE  
(FRENCH) ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL PROVIDED ME AN  
APPORTUNITY TO SPELL OUT IN DETAIL THE FRENCH  
POSITION WITH REGARD TO THE TOKYO ROUND IN WHICH  
THE INTERNATIONAL REDUCTION OF TARIFF AND NON-TARIFF  
BARRIERS WILL BE DEBATED. FOR US, IN FACT, IT IS

NOT A QUESTION OF LIBERALIZATION AT ANY PRICE, BUT  
RATHER A NEGOTIATION AIMED AT THE BETTER ORGANIZATION  
OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE. WHAT THIS MEANS IS  
THAT THE CURRENTLY MOST PROTECTIONIST COUNTRIES MUST  
GIVE A GOOD EXAMPLE BY BEGINNING TO REDUCE THEIR CUSTOMS  
BARRIERS. WE ALSO SUPPORT THE CONCEPT OF "CUTTING  
OFF THE TOPS" BY HARMONIZATION RATHER THAN A LINEAR RE-  
DUCTION OF TARIFFS. IN EFFECT, LINEAR REDUCTIONS WOULD  
NOT CHANGE THE RULES OF THE GAME; AN ACROSS-THE-BOARD  
REDUCTION OF A FEW POINTS IN ALL TARIFFS WOULD MEAN  
THAT THE HIGHEST DUTIES WOULD STILL REMAIN THE HIGHEST.  
FINALLY, WE ARE INTRANSIGENT WITH REGARD TO THE  
STRUCTURE OF THE CAP; THIS IS FOR US A MAJOR POINT.  
I INTEND ONCE AGAIN TO CLARIFY THE FRENCH POSITION  
TO THE APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES IN THE PARLIAMENT.  
END QUOTE.

3. COMMENT: ROSSI ALMOST CERTAINLY HAD US IN  
MIND WHEN HE SPOKE OF "CUTTING OFF THE TOPS" AND  
"THE MOST PROTECTIONIST COUNTRIES". AS REPORTED  
IN REFTEL, HE PROFESSES TO BE OF BELIEF THAT US  
IS STRONGLY PROTECTIONIST, AND STANDARD FRENCH  
CRITICISM OF US TARIFF CUTTING FORMULA HAS BEEN  
THAT IT WOULD FAIL TO ELIMINATE PEAKS (THOUGH FRENCH  
ARE WELL AWARE OF TRADE ACT CEILINGS ON TARIFF  
CUTTING).

RUSH

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptoning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** TRADE, PRESS CONFERENCES, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, NEGOTIATIONS  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
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**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
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**Film Number:** D770005-1202  
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**Line Count:** 88  
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**Message ID:** 9f6fb8dc-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ACTION EB  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
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**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
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**Reference:** 77 PARIS 35760  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
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**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 3652142  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** FOREIGN TRADE MINISTER ROSSI ON FRENCH POSITION IN MTN  
**TAGS:** EAGR, ETRD, FR, GATT, MTN, (ROSSI, ANDRE)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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